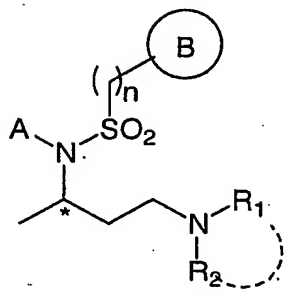
Claims

1. A compound of formula (I):-



wherein A is an aromatic moiety or selected from benzyl, C_1-C_{16} alkyl dialkylamino, dialkylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cyano, and mono-, di-, or tri-hydroxyalkyl and/or aryl,
B is an aromatic moiety,
R_1 and R_2 are independently C_1 to C_6 alkyl or NR_1R_2 forms a 5 to 8 membered ring optionally containing one or two additional heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur and which is optionally substituted by C_1 to C_6 alkyl, and
n is 0 or 1,
and salts and hydrates thereof

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the moiety NR_1R_2 is 4-methylpiperidinyl.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein A is an aromatic moiety, and A and B are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, azobenzene, or a 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl ring or a benzofused heteroaryl ring containing from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and

sulphur, any of which may be optionally substituted with one or more of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, halo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl, and trifluoromethyl.

4. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein A is phenyl, benzyl, naphth-1-yl or pyridin-2-yl.

5. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein A has one or more of the following substituents: cyano, methoxy, acetyl, nitro and methyl.

6. A compound a claimed in claim 4 or 5 wherein A is monosubstituted phenyl.

7. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein A is p-toluidine, m-anisidine or naphth-1-yl.

8. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein B is phenyl, naphth-1-yl or thiophen-2-yl.

9. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein B has one or more of the following substituents: methyl, methoxy, nitro, bromo, trifluoromethyl, acetamido and phenyl.

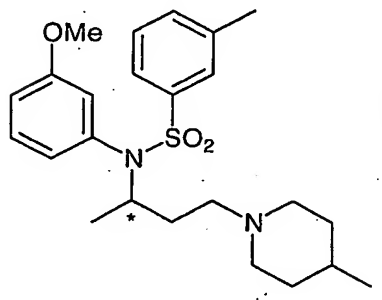
10. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein B is mono-or di-substitued phenyl.

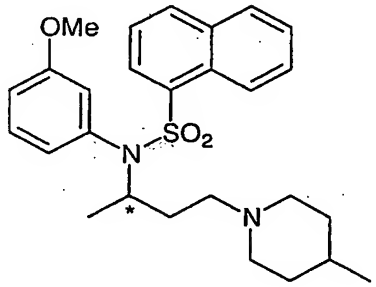
11. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein B is m-toluidine, naphth-1-yl, m-nitrophenyl, 4-biphenyl or m,p-dimethoxyphenyl.

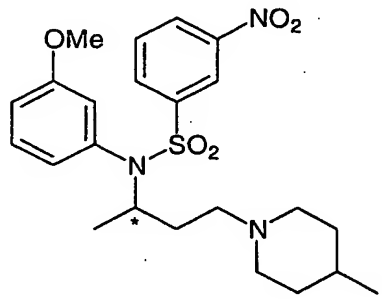
12. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein n is 1 and B is phenyl.

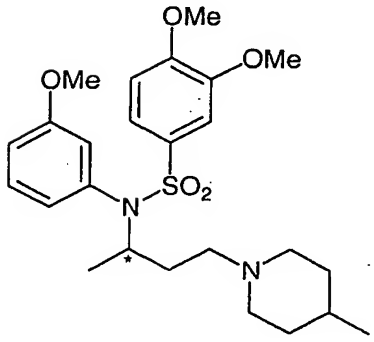
13. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, wherein n is 0.

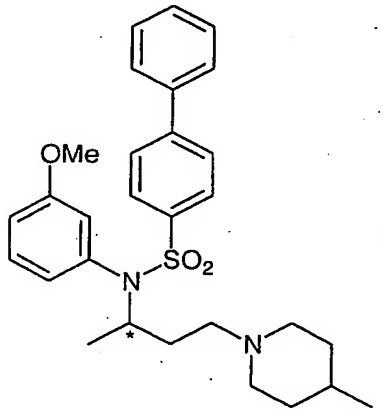
14. A compound as claimed in claim 1, having one of the following formulae:

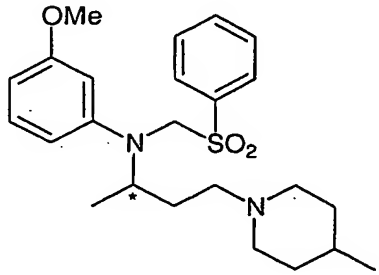


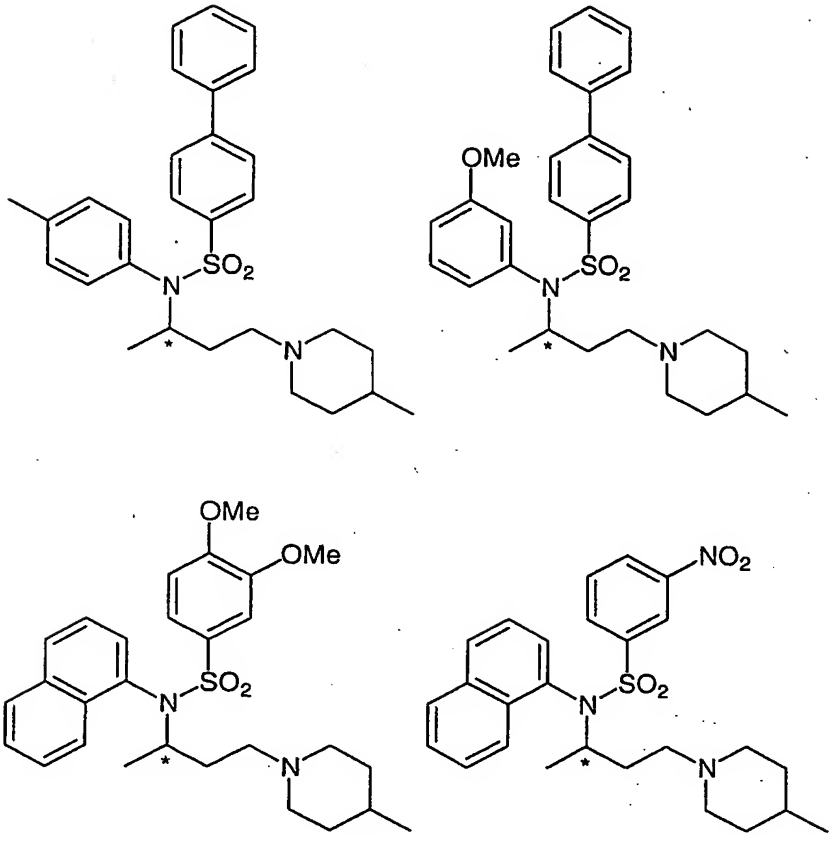










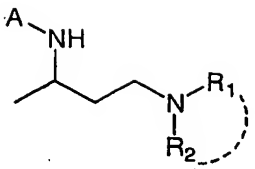


15. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim which has (R) stereochemistry at C*.

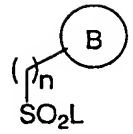
16. A compound which is metabolised or otherwise converted in vivo to a compound claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15.

17. A method of synthesising a compound of any one of claims 1 to 15 comprising the steps of

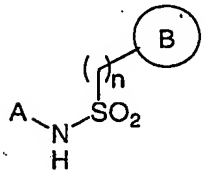
(i) coupling a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (III) or coupling a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (V),



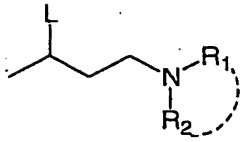
Compound (II)



Compound (III)



Compound (IV)



Compound (V)

where L is a leaving group and A, B and n are as defined in formula (I),

(ii) removing any protecting groups which may be present and

(iii) optionally forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

18. A compound as claimed in claim 17, wherein L is halogen.

19. A compound as claimed in claim 17 or 18, wherein compounds of formulae (II) and (III) are coupled and L is chloro.

20. A compound as claimed in claim 17 or 18, wherein compounds of formula (IV) and (V) are coupled and L is iodo.

21. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 as a 5-HT_7 receptor ligand and/or as a 5-HT_7 receptor antagonist.

22. The use as claimed in claim 21, wherein said compound exhibits selectivity towards the 5-HT_7 receptor over one or more other 5-HT receptor subtypes.

23. A method of treatment of a mammal afflicted with a CNS disorder, or prophylaxis in a mammal at risk of such a CNS disorder, by administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 15.

24. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

25. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16 in the preparation of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of a CNS disorder, inflammation, spastic colon, renal disorders, hypotension, cardiovascular shock, stroke, septic shock or gastrointestinal conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome.